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NEWSLETTER

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CHILTON, TEXAS, SCORES A BIG "FIRST"

Chilton, Texas, is a small town (population 500) with big ideas. Because of its enterprising citizenry, Chilton will soon have a modern waste disposal system, thus paving the way for new homes and commercial development.

Chilton obtained the first combination loan-and-grant made by USDA's Farmers Home Administration (FHA) to help finance a modern waste disposal system.

The Chilton Water Supply and Sewer Service Corporation, a non-profit corporation formed by Chilton residents, received a \$79,000 FHA-insured loan from the First State Bank of Chilton and an FHA grant of \$73,000 to construct a sewage disposal system serving approximately 150 homes, businesses, and public institutions in the town. Included will be 34,570 feet of sewer lines, a sewage treatment plant and a lagoon.



Substantial new home building and commercial development are expected to follow installation of the sewage system.

This is the first sewer system loan and grant to be financed under new legislation which also permits FHA to insure loan financing of rural community water systems and authorizes grants to supplement these loans for rural improvements.

This aid is available to public groups or private non-profit associations of rural people in communities up to 5,500 population.

NEW RCDS STATE DIRECTORS NAMED

The first nine State directors of USDA's new Rural Community Development Service have been named by Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman.

In announcing the appointments, Secretary Freeman said, "Through this new service, the Department will take specific and positive steps to help rural residents more effectively use the programs of other Federal departments -- programs that can help rural people and their communities to share more fully in the nation's prosperity and progress."

State directors named:

Alabama -- Roy Sellers, former associate editor of the "Progressive Farmer," Bond Building, 502 Washington Street, Montgomery, Ala., 36104.

Arizona-New Mexico -- Jack M. Cornelius, RCDS field representative, 610 Gold Street, S.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87100.

Arkansas -- Earl F. Pettyjohn, former extension leader, Room 343 Post Office Building, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201.

Georgia -- Edward C. Collins, an award winner for his rural anti-poverty work, Room 436, 1776 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia, 30309.

Indiana -- Earl Hogan, a former Member of Congress and rural areas development specialist for the past 5 years, Old Trails Building, 309 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204.

Maryland-Delaware -- Harold G. Marx, former rural areas development fieldman, Room 408 Hartwick Building, 4321 Hartwick Road, College Park, Maryland, 20740.

North Carolina -- Gerald F. Albright, former administrator, Small Industries Section, North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, 245 Phillips Building, Cameron Village, 401 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27605.

Vermont -- Paul H. Guare, former Vermont coordinator of war on poverty programs, 118 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont, 05602.

Wisconsin -- Harvey O. Grasse, former chairman, Wisconsin State Highway Commission, 313 Price Place, Madison, Wisconsin, 53705.

Other state directors will be named in the coming months.

TAP IN ACTION BRINGS SUCCESS

Low-income farmers in Guernsey and Harrison Counties, Ohio needed help. So they went to their Technical Action Panel (TAP) to see what could be done.

TAP's idea -- a co-op to help members convert their wasted acres into productive pasture.

The result was a \$50,000 economic opportunity loan from USDA to Guernsey-Harrison Grassland, Inc. It enabled the co-op formed by 70 low-income farmers to buy a bulldozer, trucks, and heavy pasture seeding equipment.



Here is how it all came about.

When the farmers called on representatives of the four USDA agencies serving on the TAP, the USDA field people suggested that a cooperative pasture improvement project might be the answer. But they didn't stop there. The Farmers Home Administration supervisor, as the TAP chairman and economic expert, interpreted financing aspects and helped the group submit a loan application. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county chairman explained how the Agricultural Conservation Program could help the farmers finance their pasture improvements. Local Soil Conservation Service employees served as the TAP's technical consultants, showing farmers conservation

techniques that improved the land for sustained forage. The Cooperative Extension Service coordinated the project and conducted educational sessions, and one of its resource development agents served as liaison man between the various agencies.

And, the project is growing -- as many as 200 families could improve their grasslands and woodlands through the co-op.

NATION'S BUSINESSMEN URGED TO LOCATE PLANTS IN RURAL AREAS

"American businessmen can help ease the Nation's farm unemployment and urban congestion problems by locating more plants in rural areas," according to Mr. W. B. Murphy, chairman of the Business Council and president of Campbell Soup Company. Mr. Murphy spoke at the January 31 meeting of the National Advisory **Committee** on Rural Areas Development.

Mr. Murphy said that his company, which has built 20 of its 26 plants in rural areas, found a large number of skilled workers, and many others that can be trained in most communities. "In Paris, Texas, for example, it took only seven months to get a plant built and into full-scale operation," Mr. Murphy told the committee.



Company executives who once worked in urban plants also find that they like the advantages of living in a small town. Mr. Murphy said, "It isn't long before we have a real difficult time transferring our executives from the country. One big advantage is that it only takes about 10 minutes to get to work."

PRESIDENT URGES PLANNED COMMUNITY ACTION

President Lyndon B. Johnson, in a recent message to Congress, centered his attention on improving rural America. He stressed the **need** for coordinated planning to help small cities and surrounding rural areas achieve economic and social advances.

"Coordinated planning," the President said, "can stimulate economic growth. It can provide economies of **efficient** public service which **attracted** business and industry.

"It can make possible adequate vocational training so that rural **workers** who lack present job opportunities can become qualified for work in new and expanding industries **within** reach of their homes and farms."

Only by combining resources and efforts can rural and small urban communities become large enough to support full-range, high-quality public services and facilities, President Johnson pointed out.

He proposed that Congress enact legislation to provide Federal financial help to small cities and surrounding rural **areas** that organize themselves into Community Development Districts to enable them to hire a professional planning staff. Such a bill has been introduced in both House and Senate.

IMAGINATIVE GREEN THUMB PROJECT

Senior citizens, low-income people and beautification -- are being combined in an outstanding conservation project in Arkansas, New Jersey, Oregon, and Minnesota.

Organized by the National Farmers Union, elderly low-income farmers are being enrolled for highway beautification projects. They will be trained in gardening, landscaping, and nursery work while they help beautify the state highways.

This greenthumb project is being financed by the Office of Economic Opportunity and by local contributions. It involves the cooperation of nurserymen, the state highway departments and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. And it helps solve many problems at once -- beautification, manpower training for landscape work, and income for the low-income aged.

FUNDS FOR IMPROVING LAND-WATER RESOURCES

The Appalachian Regional Commission has approved land-and-water improvement grants for New York, Virginia, and Alabama totaling \$1,853,000 in Federal funds.

The programs, part of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, are administered by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service through state and county committees.

The grants will go to 7 Appalachian counties in Virginia, 7 in New York, and 11 in Alabama. In each, the Federal Government will share with low-income farmers the cost of carrying out approved practices for the conservation and development of soil, water, forestry, and recreation sources. Included will be such things as land improvement, tree planting, construction of ponds and fences, and establishing permanent vegetative cover.

TRAINING PROGRAM PAYS OFF

Five out of six -- a good batting average in any league.



This is the success record of a training program sponsored by the St. Lawrence County (New York) Soil and Water Conservation District and the St. Lawrence County Department of Social Welfare. When these two organizations recently joined hands to train local people for better jobs, five of their first six trainees were able to open the door to better job opportunities.

Of the four men trained as engineering aides, three are now employed. One man works for a private construction company, another for a village engineering department, and the third is employed with SCS.

In addition, a clerk-typist trainee successfully completed the N. Y. Civil Service Examination, and a dynamiter-blasting trainee is now employed by the N. Y. State Highway Department.

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